

What is the problem?

The **2011 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey** indicates that among high school students:

Cigarette Use:

- 44% ever tried cigarette smoking.
- 17% smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the past 30 days.
- 6% smoked cigarettes on 20 or more days during the past 30 days.
- 4% smoked cigarettes on school property during the past 30 days.
- 44% did not try to quit smoking cigarettes.

Other Tobacco Use:

- 14% used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the past 30 days.
- 8% used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip on school property on at least 1 day during the past 30 days.
- 16% smoked cigars, cigarillos, or little cigars on at least 1 day during the past 30 days.

Any Tobacco Use:

- 27% smoked cigarettes; smoked cigars, cigarillos or little cigars; or used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on at least 1 day during the past 30 days.

What are the solutions?

Better health education • More family and community involvement • Healthier school environments

What is the status?

The **2010 Montana School Health Profiles** indicates that among high schools:

Health Education

- 94% required students to take 2 or more health education courses.
- 69% had a health education curriculum that addresses all 8 national standards for health education.
- 57% taught 15 key tobacco-use prevention topics in a required course.
- 35% had a lead health education teacher who received professional development within the past 2 years on tobacco-use prevention.

Family and Community Involvement

- 35% provide families with health information to increase parent and family knowledge of tobacco-use prevention.

School Environment

- 45% prohibited all tobacco use at all times in all locations.
- 47% sometimes, almost always, or always required students who were caught smoking cigarettes to participate in an assistance, education or cessation program.
- 26% provided tobacco cessation services for students, faculty, and staff at school or through arrangements with providers not on school property.
- 88% posted signs marking a tobacco-free school zone.
- 58% used the School Health Index or a similar self-assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in tobacco-use prevention.